

This was a small town over a hundred years old, with a population of about three hundred, and was to be the training area of I and K Companies for the next four weeks with regimental headquarters at Serrigny. Here the men were billeted with civilians, occupying dwellings, vacated barns and stables.

## TRAINING AREA

In a day or two squads east and west, close and extended order drill, began to take on elaborate proportions spliced now and then with an all-day hike. The training was intense despite the baking hot sun. The schedule was crowded and there was scarcely a moment that one could call his own from 6 a. m. to 9 p. m. each day. It was at Yrouerre that the men got their first insight into French life. Many of their manners and customs were new and novel, and, too, they began to notice and to appreciate more particularly the French roads and their system, which is unsurpassed. While here a target range was built near Freshnes, about five kilometres from Yrouerre, for the Third Battalion. The first experience that the men had in laying out and digging trenches on foreign soil was done while at this range.

Some of the daily hikes brought the men to the banks of the Serein River, where swimming, fishing, washing and cooking their own meals of bacon and spuds was the order of the day from 11:30 a. m. to 2 p. m.

During the sojourn here many of the boys had their first experience in policing the streets of a foreign town, and had learned the new companions of "Vin Rouge," "Vin Blanc" and "Cognac." Also many French expressions were captured and carried along as by-words.